

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-69, 85, 90-110, 117, 118 and 124-133 were previously cancelled. Claims 70, 78-80, 84, 114 and 116 are currently amended. Claims 71-73, 83, 86, 87, and 123 are currently cancelled. Claims 74-77, 81, 82, 88, 89, 111-113, 115 and 119-122 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-69 (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) A printing blanket unit for a printing blanket cylinder of a printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including a plate central element, with a plate exterior surface, and with leading and trailing support plate ends, said support plate ends being formed at an angle, with respect to said plate exterior surface and forming leading and trailing printing blanket unit securement legs;

fold zones located at a transition between said plate central element and each of said leading and trailing printing blanket unit securement legs;

a printing blanket fastened on said plate exterior surface of said plate central element and having printing blanket ends spaced apart in a longitudinal direction of said printing blanket, and a printing blanket exterior surface; and

a filler material on at least a portion of each of said leading and trailing support plate ends and being secured to said fold zones, said filler material being embodied as a support element, said filler material secured to each of said fold zones engaging a respective at least one end of said printing blanket and extending radially at least in part, past a virtual extension of said printing blanket exterior surface and extending from its respective one of said fold zones ~~said at least one of said printing blanket ends~~ in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a length greater than 0.1 mm, wherein when said printing blanket unit is

mounted on the printing blanket cylinder, said filler material on one of said leading and trailing printing blanket unit securement legs is out of contact with said filler material on the other of said leading and trailing printing blanket unit securement legs and further wherein said printing blanket ends are out of contact with each other.

71-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said length is greater than 0.4 mm.

75. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said length is less than 2 mm.

76. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said length is less than 5 mm.

77. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material has a filler material thickness and said printing blanket has a printing blanket thickness which is less than said filler material thickness.

78. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 ~~71~~ wherein said at least one of said securement legs ~~folded end leg~~ defines an acute angle with said support plate.

79. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 78 ~~71~~ wherein said at least one of said securement legs ~~folded end leg~~ is arranged at said leading end of said support plate of said printing blanket unit.

80. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim ~~70-72~~ wherein said securement ~~folded end~~ leg at said trailing end of said support plate forms an opening angle of between 45° and 150° with said support plate.

81. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 80 wherein said angle is between 80° and 100°.

82. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 80 wherein said angle is between 120° and 150°.

83. (Cancelled)

84. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material extends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a virtual extension of said support plate~~printing blanket~~ exterior surface.

85-87. (Cancelled)

88. (Previously Presented) A printing blanket unit for a printing blanket cylinder of a printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate including a plate exterior surface with leading and trailing plate ends;

a printing blanket fastened on said plate exterior surface and having printing blanket ends spaced apart in a longitudinal direction of said printing blanket, and a printing blanket exterior surface; and

a filler material on at least a portion of said support plate and being embodied as

a support element, said filler material engaging at least one end of said printing blanket and extending radially at least in part, past a virtual extension of said printing blanket exterior surface and extending from said at least one of said printing blanket ends in said longitudinal direction of said printing blanket at a length greater than 0.1 mm, wherein when said printing blanket unit is mounted on the printing blanket cylinder, said filler material on said at least one end of said printing blanket is not connected with filler material on another end of said printing blanket.

89. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 88 wherein said filler material on said at least one end of said printing blanket is spaced from filler material on another end of said printing blanket.

Claims 90-110 (Cancelled)

111. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said support plate is metal.

112. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is multi-layered.

113. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material is one piece.

114. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is a material which is different from said filler material.

115. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said printing blanket is the same material as said filler material.

116. (Currently Amended) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 wherein said filler material is placed on said support plate before said printing blanket is placed on said support plate.

117. (Cancelled)

118. (Cancelled)

119. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 70 further including a forme cylinder in contact with said printing blanket unit on the printing blanket cylinder.

120. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 119 further including at least one printing plate on said forme cylinder.

121. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 119 further including at least one interruption on a surface of said forme cylinder.

122. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket unit of claim 120 wherein said filler material and said printing plate mutually support each other.

123-133. (Cancelled)